

# On the S&B WebSite are offered for you:

+ Lists of people holding credentials administered by the Safety and Buildings Division, including continuing education status as of date posted. Updated monthly. [www.commerce.state.wi.us/SB/SB-CredentialsList.html](http://www.commerce.state.wi.us/SB/SB-CredentialsList.html)



+ Lists of cross connection control devices on record with S&B. Updated twice yearly. [www.commerce.state.wi.us/SB/SB-PlumbingCrossConnect.html](http://www.commerce.state.wi.us/SB/SB-PlumbingCrossConnect.html)

+ Forms for various S&B programs, including POWTS and Plumbing. [www.commerce.state.wi.us/SB/SB-Forms.html](http://www.commerce.state.wi.us/SB/SB-Forms.html)

+ Info on the next available plumbing or building plan review appointment in any of the six S&B full-service offices (POWTS plans are reviewed in the order received.) [www.commerce.state.wi.us/SB/SB-DailyDoc.html](http://www.commerce.state.wi.us/SB/SB-DailyDoc.html)

+ Who to contact among S&B staff. [www.commerce.state.wi.us/SB/SB-Contacts.html](http://www.commerce.state.wi.us/SB/SB-Contacts.html)

+ 2001 exam dates for licenses, registrations, and certifications. [www.commerce.state.wi.us/SB/SB-CredentialExams2001.html](http://www.commerce.state.wi.us/SB/SB-CredentialExams2001.html)

+ Information on current code development projects. [www.commerce.state.wi.us/SB/SB-CodeDevelopment.html](http://www.commerce.state.wi.us/SB/SB-CodeDevelopment.html)

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# Wisconsin Plumbing Codes Report

Safety and Buildings Division, Department of Commerce

Volume 17 No. 2

February 2001

Sample S&B email address:  
tbraun@commerce.state.wi.us

## Safety and Buildings Offices

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.state.wi.us

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Hayward WI 54843  
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Waukesha Office  
401 Pilot Ct # C  
Waukesha WI 53188  
262-548-8600  
Fax 262-548-8614  
waukeshasch@commerce  
.state.wi.us

## Plan Review Scheduling

For plan review scheduling for Plumbing and Buildings, call the S&B office numbers listed above, or contact the email address shown. Fax scheduling is possible, 877-840-9172. Information about the project will be needed to schedule the plan review. Any of the offices can schedule the first appropriate plan review available statewide.

Plan review for Private Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems is provided on a first-come, first-served basis. Contact one of the offices for information.

For scheduling info, also see <http://www.commerce.state.wi.us/SB/SB-DailyDoc.html>.

Direct comments, address, suggestions for articles, etc., to Todd Taylor. Fax 608-264-8795. Telephone 608-267-3606.  
ttaylor@commerce.state.wi.us/  
Madison mailing address above.

## Plumbing Consultants

Tom Braun .....Stevens Point .....715-345-5335  
Don Hough .....Hayward .....715-634-4804  
Tim Joyce .....Madison .....608-825-4724  
Don Oremus .....Pelican Lake .....715-487-6123  
Robert Samuels .....Waukesha .....262-548-8634  
Jim Wehinger .....Friendship .....608-339-7430  
Jim Zickert .....Eldorado .....920-872-2656  
Harold Stanlick, Superv. ....715-726-4520

## Plumbing Plan Reviewers

Ryan Boebel.....Madison .....608-261-6535  
Herman Delfosse.....La Crosse .....608-789-5535  
Tom Devereaux.....Hayward .....715-634-3026  
Wes Grube .....Green Bay .....920-492-5613  
Dan Kraft .....Madison .....608-266-8075  
Ken Pertzborn .....Madison .....608-267-2242  
Curt Wendorff .....Shawano .....715-526-9056

## Plumbing Products Reviewers

Mike Beckwith .....Madison .....608-266-6742  
Glen Schlueter .....Madison .....608-267-1401

## POWTS Plan Reviewers

Tom Devereaux.....Hayward .....715-634-3026  
Wes Grube .....Green Bay .....920-492-5613  
Julia Lewis .....Waukesha .....262-548-8638  
Robert Kanter .....Madison .....608-261-7735  
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Jim Quinlan .....Madison .....608-266-3937  
Pat Shandorf .....Hayward .....715-634-7810  
Jerry Swim .....La Crosse .....608-789-7892  
Keith Wilkinson .....Shawano .....715-524-3630

## POWTS Wastewater Specialists

Ross Fugill .....Shawano .....715-524-3629  
Matthew Janzen .....Stevens Point .....715-345-5336  
Leroy Jansky .....Chippewa Falls .....715-726-2544  
Carl Lippert .....Hayward .....715-634-3484  
Karl Schultz.....Oshkosh .....920-424-3311  
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Duane Steiner .....West Baraboo .....608-355-3159  
Allen Wendorf .....Madison .....608-873-5476  
Harold Stanlick, Superv. ....262-521-5065

## Public Swimming Pool Reviewer

Glen Schlueter .....Madison .....608-267-1401

The WPCR is a monthly publication delivered to about 9,700 people as part of their certification, license, or registration with the Wisconsin Department of Commerce, Safety and Buildings Division. Subscriptions are also available.

SBD 8340P

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# Event Calendar

Contact the listed Code Consultant for information on the meeting agendas, locations, etc. If you have questions concerning technicalities of the codes which are the subjects of the meetings, contact consultants and reviewers in the appropriate program area.

March 8, 2001, Thursday, **Commercial Building Code Council**, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., UW-Madison Agricultural Research Station, 8502 Mineral Point Rd, Verona, Sam Rockweiler, 608-266-0797, srockweiler@commerce.state.wi.us.

March 15, 2001, Thursday, **Plumbing Advisory Code Council**, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., Thompson Commerce Center, Rm. 3C, 201 W Washington Ave, Madison, Jean MacCubbin, 608-266-0955, jmaccubbin@commerce.state.wi.us.

March 13, 2001, Wednesday (tentative, possibly March 21), **Multifamily Dwelling Code Council**, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., Wisconsin Builders Association, 4868 High Crossing Blvd, Madison, Sam Rockweiler, 608-266-0797, srockweiler@commerce.state.wi.us.

April 3, 2001, Tuesday, **Stormwater Workgroup**, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., Thompson Commerce Center, Rm. 3B, 201 W Washington Ave., Madison, Jean MacCubbin, 608-266-0955, jmaccubbin@commerce.state.wi.us.

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**S&B WebSite** <http://www.commerce.state.wi.us/SB.html>

## Correction on the patching article from the January 2001 *WPCR*

The sentence at the end of the third paragraph in the front page article on patching in last month's *WPCR* should have read: "Recently, options have expanded to kits that include epoxy agents, fabric wraps (Figure 2), and even pipe liners that are forced inside pipe **as** the original piping material is cracked and expanded." The editor had replaced the word "as" with "because."

## Cross-Connection Control and Backflow Prevention

April 16-19, 2001,  
UW-Madison

- + Review the need for water supply protection, the risks involved, and methods available.
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Professional development

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**People with paid subscriptions**, may request service and address changes from Material Orders, PO Box 2509, Madison, WI 53701. Fax 608-261-6699. Telephone 608-267-4405. Email phobbs@commerce.state.wi.us

Subscriptions are \$20, payable in advance to the Safety and Buildings Division for 12 monthly issues.

# Departments of Commerce and Natural Reources come to an agreement on defining plumbing and pump installation

by Lynita Docken, Safety and Buildings Division Plumbing Program Manager, 608-785-9349, ldocken@commerce.state.wi.us

Chapter 145 of the Wisconsin statutes describes the work of a pump installer as the “plumbing from the private water supply pump to and including the initial pressure tank and connection to an existing water distribution system, when installed by persons licensed under ch. 280.” For many years pump installers and plumbers have shared the installation of the pressure tank. The pressure tank historically has been considered the dividing line between the two trades. The work outward from the tank has been the pump installer’s, the work inside that of a plumber.

With variable speed pumps that don’t require pressure tanks and bladder tanks that allow plumbing to be installed between the pump and the pressure tank, the dividing line between plumbing and pump installing has blurred. In order to explain the reality of “who’s installing what,” the state Departments of Natural Resources and Commerce have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to clarify these issues.

The MOU says that the agencies agree on these issues:

1. A pump installer or plumber may install the pump discharge piping from a well to the pressure tank within a building.
2. A pump installer or plumber may install three code-compliant, reservoir-type hydrants in this pump discharge piping or in a water service downstream of an exterior pressure tank.
3. If an exterior pressure tank exists, a pump installer is permitted to install the water service from the exterior pressure tank to the building control valve.
4. If a private water main is created downstream of an external pressure tank, the pump installer may install that private water main to the point of the building control valves.

The figures on page five illustrate the conditions of the MOU. For further information, contact any of the plumbing consultants or plumbing plan reviewers listed on page two of this *WPCR*.

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Figure One

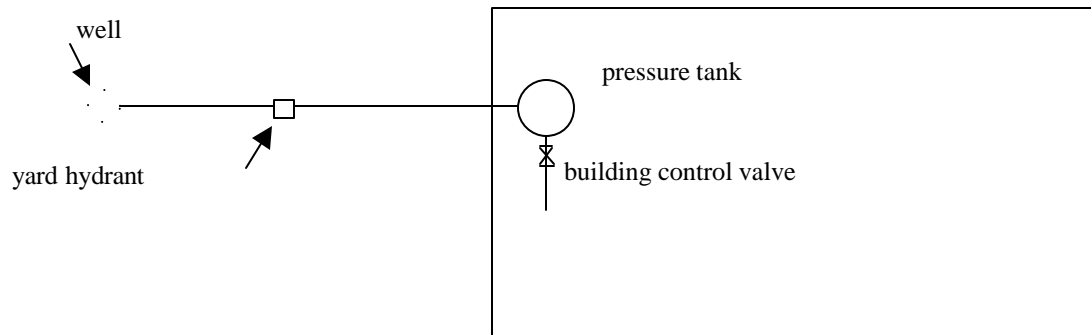


Figure Two

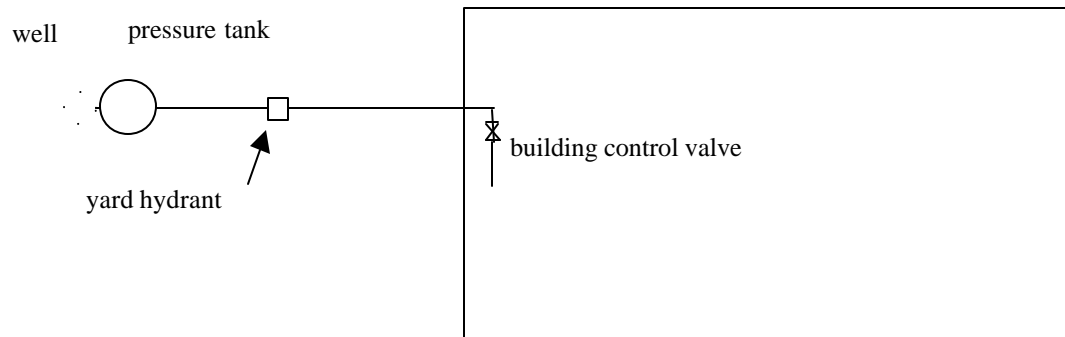
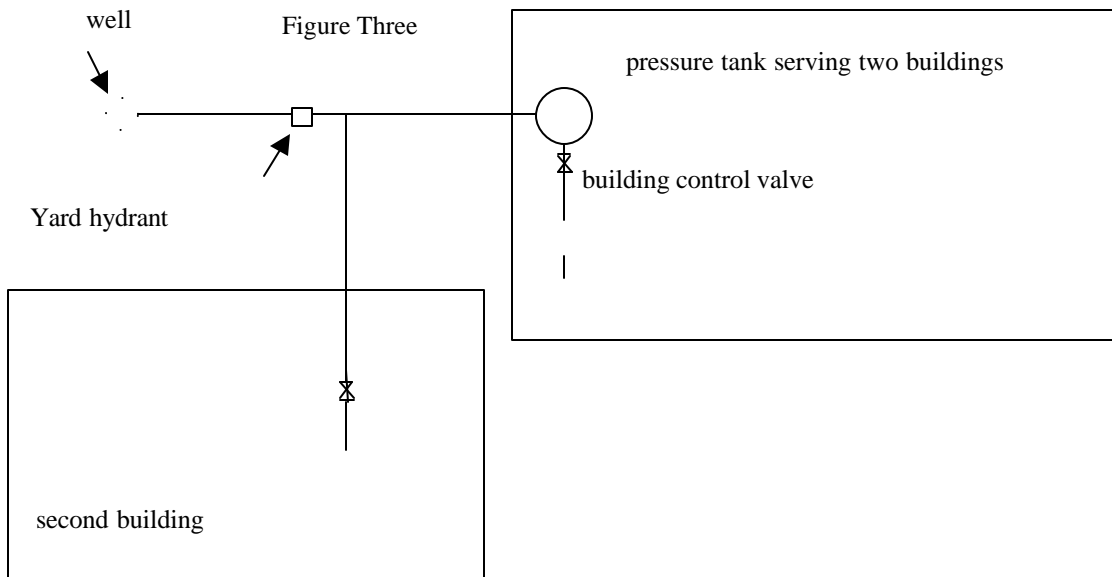


Figure Three



## Employment Opportunity - Assistant Sanitarian (LTE) - Door County

Assistant Sanitarian, Limited Term Employee - The Door County Sanitarian's Office seeks an individual to conduct inspections of existing onsite waste disposal systems and of private sewage systems at the time of installation; to provide developers and individuals information regarding county and state sanitation codes and ordinances; and prepare onsite soil test reports. Project work period: approximately April 1 through Sept. 30, 2001. Certification as a Wisconsin Certified Soil Tester and POWTS Inspector is highly desirable. Wage rate: \$15/hour. Apply to the Human Resources Dept., Door County Courthouse, 421 Nebraska St., Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235-0670. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. Equal Opportunity Employer.

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## **S&B Bureau of Integrated Services Management Contacts**

Bureau Director: Randy Baldwin, 608-267-9152  
Green Bay office: Brad Johnson, 920-492-5605  
Hayward Office: John Spalding, 608-789-4693  
LaCrosse Office: John Spalding, 608-789-4693  
Madison Office: Tom Kasper 608-267-7586  
Mary Jacobson 608-266-8456  
Jim Miller 608-266-8072  
Credentialing Unit Super., M. Jacobson, above  
Mobile Home Unit Super., Malini  
Ganeshapillai, 608-266-5333  
Shawano Office: Brad Johnson, 715-524-6853  
Waukesha Office: Tony Rubio, 262-548-8610

### **Questions about your continuing education credits?**

Check the mailing address back page for a printed line giving your status for inspection-related S&B certifications, licenses, and registrations. Or, call the Credentialing Unit, 608-261-8500. Or, check the S&B WebSite, [www.commerce.state.wi.us/SB/SB-HomePage.html](http://www.commerce.state.wi.us/SB/SB-HomePage.html), choose "Credentials."



# Installation testing is important to maintain high plumbing standards

by Don Hough, Safety and Buildings Division  
Plumbing Consultant, 715-634-4804,  
dhough@commerce.state.wi.us

I was putting the last test plugs in on a residence, getting ready for the plumbing inspector to inspect the drain and vent rough on a two-and-a-half story home. Having isolated the groundwork (building drain) from the test, because the building drain had been tested previously before the concrete basement floor was poured, I proceeded to fill the waste and vent portion of the plumbing system with water. By the time the inspector arrived, the system was filled to the top of the vent terminal, and everything looked good. My inspection was going to be quick, painless, dry, and financially acceptable.

...so I thought. The inspector looked at the test and said he couldn't pass it because there wasn't a gauge installed on any of the test plugs. He preferred to have an air test. After we discussed the language of Comm 82.21(1)(d)7a & b, and referenced the distinct differences between an air test and a water test, he acquiesced.

He redirected his attention to the fact that he could not see the water in the pipe. Was it, in fact, all the way up to the vent terminal? After quickly connecting a hose to a test plug on a basement cleanout, I went downstairs and turned the water on so that the water ran out of the vent terminal on to the roof.

This seemed to satisfy him, but then he wasn't sure if the water that was entering the drain and vent system just below the first floor level was actually filling up the entire system. My explanation of a straw filling up when you place it in a glass of water (if



*"BEEP-BEEP - CLANG-CLANG - GURGLE-GURGLE"*  
*"This is a test of the Wisconsin drain and vent plumbing system. This is only a test. If this were an actual emergency, you would be instructed to tune in to your local plumbing inspector for further information."*



you don't have your finger on the top of the straw) did not go over well.

To further exacerbate the situation, he suggested that I should pull one of the test plugs on the first floor to see if the water was in fact filling the entire system. We managed to compromise, deciding to pull a second floor test plug on a lavatory stub-out. I would pull the plug. He would stand in front of the stub-out with a 33-gallon plastic container. Everything went OK, until the plastic container slipped..... I had water all over the floor, water all over the carpenters' work area, water all over the plumbing inspector. However, the inspection passed!

The aggravation sometimes makes for a temptation for plumbers to try to avoid such testy days. Maybe skip the test and the inspection?

Trying to find that small air leak on a test that nudges the air gauge needle down can be like trying to find a needle in a haystack. Is it a glue joint, a cracked pipe, a test plug, or maybe the test gauge? And who took the air nozzle off the compressor hose in your truck?

As a Safety and Buildings Division Plumbing Consultant, inspecting plumbing in homes and commercial buildings, I've seen problems that showed the plumbing was not tested, and sometimes wasn't inspected properly.

For example; a new homeowner was furiously upset because when she moved in to her home and

used the plumbing fixtures, most of the water ended up running out of her ceilings and walls. The plumber never finished the rough drain and vent piping before it was dry walled over.

Another homeowner was afraid of living in his new home because he keeps smelling sewer gas. The “plumber” told him to take a five-gallon bucket filled with water and pour it down the second floor bathroom toilet every couple weeks to keep the pipes flushed out.

Then there are people who have it in their minds that they can do plumbing work because they are who they are. No license, no trade experience, they just pick up the wrenches and do what they feel is cool. We all have to contend with the problems they leave. You think they test to meet high standards?

People are affected by the work we perform. Homeowners, businesses, corporations, general contractors, subcontractors, real estate developers - all can experience difficulties and financial losses if, as plumbers, we do not maintain high standards. Testing is an important part of this process.

Our goal is a job well done. The parameters are set through our plumbing code and the skill of the men and women who work the trade. For so many, their dedication and striving towards excellence is evident. A plumber must have the ability to labor for hours working in dirt trenches, must have the skills of a craftsman, and the capabilities of a designer. Plumbers have the talent to engineer and have the understanding that most of

their work will not be noticed. You need knowledge of all the products and fixtures, and knowledge of the code, to be able to be called a “plumber.”

Testing is the plumber’s and the customer’s insurance that the job is well done.

*Comm 82.21, Testing and Maintenance* is our guide to insure our work. “All new plumbing and all parts of existing systems which have been altered, extended, or repaired shall be tested as specified in paragraph (d) to disclose leaks and defects before the plumbing is put into operation.”

For drain and vent systems, Comm 82.21(1)(d)3 and 4 is where we find help.

“3. Building drain. The entire building drain with all its branches, receptacles and connections shall be brought so far as practical to the surface or grade of the basement floor and shall be tested with water or air in accordance with subd. 7.

4. Drain and vent systems. The piping of a drain and vent system, including conductors, shall be tested upon completion of the rough piping installation with water or air in accordance with subd. 7.”

Subd. 7 details the water test and air test requirements. The initial paragraph says; “A test for water-tightness shall be applied to the entire drain and vent system at one time or to the entire system in sections after the rough piping has been installed in accordance with either subd. 7a or b.”.. The option of testing the building drain or the drain and vent systems is left up to the plumber.

Care should be taken to test in a manner that will comply with Comm 82.21(1)(b)3 “A rough-in inspection shall be made when the plumbing system is roughed-in and before fixtures are set. Except as provided in subd. 1, plumbing work shall not be closed in, concealed, or covered until it has been inspected and approved by the plumbing inspector and permission is granted to do so.”

So, if you are going to set up a building drain and drain and vent (entire system) test, all piping must be exposed. This does not happen very often when your building drain is below grade or under a slab floor. The concrete floor is usually poured soon after all groundwork is in place. For this reason, many plumbers choose to test the plumbing system by





sections - building drain, rough drain and vent systems, and trim (where required by local plumbing inspector).

Testing a drain, waste, and vent system by sections can be time consuming and costly if we don't anticipate how we are going to section off the plumbing system to isolate for a test. This is a problem area for many residential and commercial installations.

Once the groundwork (building drain) is complete and all the risers are stubbed above grade, it is tested and sealed off. The plumber protects the floor drains, floor cleanouts, and floor fixtures (grease interceptors) from the concrete pour, rough framing, and traffic by covering the fixtures with tape, cardboard, wood, or other construction material to ensure an acceptable finish.

The job site construction proceeds along until the rough framing is complete and the plumbing subcontractor can come back on the job and install the rough (drain and vent and water distribution). Usually a plumber extends his drain and vent risers coming out of the floor with a coupling, and then continues the drain and vent system to its vent terminal completion through the roof. But in order to test the drain and vent system, the plumber has to retest the groundwork. No steps are taken to isolate the waste and vent from the building drain when couplings are used. Time and effort is applied in a duplication of testing the building drain and resealing the floor fixtures.

There is a much under-used fitting, the **test tee**, which can be very helpful to the plumber and his pocketbook in preventing repetition of work. By using a test tee instead of a coupling to continue the drain and vent system, the plumber can isolate the above grade rough in portion of his system and set up his test more efficiently.

The test tee is virtually the same fitting as its twin, the clean-out tee. The difference is in its use. The plumber who is installing the system determines the use. By design, the test tee may be installed in

sewers, building drains, vent stacks, drain stacks, just about anywhere a plumber decides to section off work for testing purposes. There are no code limitations on the test tee. Once its usefulness is done, it can be sealed, covered over, and ignored.

A plumber who uses test tees to isolate his drain and vent system can have a test on and ready for inspection in minutes. By installing a test tee just below the vent terminal, the plumber can put an air test on without having to negotiate the roof. No extra ladders, no special harnesses, no weather-related problems, and one less time someone is walking on the roofer's shingles.

A good set of test plugs (a couple with air gauges), along with a drain and vent system set up by design to isolate and test the system by sections, can save the plumber substantial labor and minimize the drudgery of a test day.

Remember the test tee cannot take the place of a clean-out tee, but a clean-out tee can take the place of a test tee if it is installed according to Comm 82.35 Cleanouts code specifications.

Good luck .... Rather, I should say...  
Good **engineering**... on your next job!

If you have any suggestions, or comments you would like to pass along, contact me, Don Hough, S&B Plumbing Consultant, 715-634-4804, [dhough@commerce.state.wi.us](mailto:dhough@commerce.state.wi.us), fax: 715-634-5150.



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State administrative codes and the code update service may be purchased by contacting state Document Sales, 608-266-3358, or 800-362-7253, for credit card purchases.

Safety and Buildings-related codes are on the Internet, [www.commerce.state.wi.us/SB/SB-CodesListing2000.html](http://www.commerce.state.wi.us/SB/SB-CodesListing2000.html). Not all codes are available electronically. Paper copies may be purchased from Document Sales, 800-362-7253, for credit card purchases, or 608-266-3358.

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SB/SB-HomePage.html](http://www.commerce.state.wi.us/SB/SB-HomePage.html), choose "Credentials."

# Hearings planned for rules on soil runoff, including that from construction sites

The state Natural Resources Board on January 24 authorized public hearings for proposed rules that would attempt to control sources of nonpoint source water pollution, including management of sediment and runoff from construction sites. The hearings are expected to be held in March, 2001.

“Nonpoint” refers to sources of pollution other than the traditionally regulated sources such as an industrial plant discharge pipe. Examples of nonpoint source pollution are construction and farm sediment, animal waste, and urban runoff such as pesticides and car oil carried by rain and snowmelt.

In the 1997-98 budget state lawmakers required the DNR and the Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection, two of the state agencies charged with controlling nonpoint source pollution, to create standards and to restructure existing programs covering manure storage, nutrient management,

cropland erosion, construction site erosion, and stormwater control.

Also, there are federal regulations going into place concerning water quality protection which, among a number of facets, mandate increased efforts by states to control nonpoint source water pollution.

The Safety and Buildings Division of the Department of Commerce does review of soil erosion control plans for some building construction sites over five acres, based on current DNR codes. The proposed DNR regulations would extend coverage to one-acre sites. The relationship of S&B’s spoil erosion programs with those of the DNR has been negotiated between the agencies, but has not been settled.

Information on DNR’s public hearing dates and locations is available from the agency: DNR: 608-266-2621, [www.dnr.state.wi.us/](http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/).



## Clarifying January’s multipurpose piping article

Last month’s *WBCR* included an article about multipurpose piping installations which addressed several questions about who may install the automatic fire sprinkler system for a single residential unit located above a commercial occupancy.

The following information is intended to clarify a points about the Uniform Dwelling Code (UDC) applies to the residential unit mentioned in the article.

Note that application of the UDC is time-specific. For the most part, the UDC applies to one- and two- family dwellings of which the initial construction was begun on or after June 1, 1980. Last month’s article did not mention a construction timeframe for the particular scenario.

The article is accurate in that the current state UDC does not specify any regulations for the design and installation of an automatic fire sprinkler system. However, if the particular single residential unit or any home was built prior to June 1, 1980, then local ordinances, if any, would apply, not the UDC.

So, for older existing homes, municipalities may have or may enact specific regulations or parameters for the design or installation of the fire sprinkler systems. (The local ordinances may not dictate who may install such systems; the state statutes govern this issue.)

### A tidbit from last month’s article

“An ‘automatic fire sprinkler system’ is defined in 145.01(1), Stats. A plumber may not install an automatic fire sprinkler system in any building. ‘Plumbing’ is defined in 145.01(10), Stats. A ‘multipurpose piping system’ supplies water to plumbing fixtures and to residential sprinklers in one- or two-family dwellings. By definition, that is a water distribution system, which is included in the definition of plumbing. A sprinkler fitter may not install a multipurpose piping system in any building.”

WPCR - February 2001  
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